Application No.09/980,830
Amdt. Dated February 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 15, 2003
Docket No. 2527-1006

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Previously, claims 1-9 were pending with claims 1 being the sole independent claim.

There are no formal matters outstanding.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the Official Action indicated that claims 4-6 were directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten to be in independent form including the recitations of the base and any intervening claims.

In reliance thereupon, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable claim 4. Claim 4 has been canceled.

New claim 10 comprises the recitations of allowable claim 6 together with base claim 1. New claims 11-13 correspond to original claims 7-9 and depend from new claim 10.

Independent claim 1 includes the recitations of allowable claim 4. New independent claim 10 includes the recitations of allowable claim 6. Accordingly, allowance of claims 1 and 10 as well as the claims depending therefrom is respectfully requested.

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Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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REL/mjr